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December 7, 1983

Executive Registry
83-5977

DDI- 8999/83

Mr. William J. Casey
Director of Central Intelligence
Central Intelligence Agency
Washington, D.C. 20505

Dear Mr. Casey:

An article that appeared in the Wall Street Journal December 6 [redacted] challenges the CIA's assessment of the Soviet economy and the estimates of "Soviet defense spending." The article refers to another study [redacted] which apparently also is critical of the CIA. A copy of the article is enclosed.

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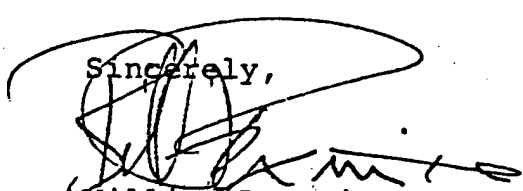
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I would like you to prepare a detailed commentary responding to the arguments and criticism [redacted] I realize that you would not necessarily want to respond to all criticisms. However, as this one appeared in a respected, widely read national newspaper, it is likely to create considerable doubt about the CIA's assessments. I would expect some of my colleagues to be influenced by and possibly repeat such arguments. Under the circumstances, it would seem to me prudent for you to indicate whether there are inaccuracies and inconsistencies in [redacted] approach.

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Sincerely,


William Proxmire

Vice Chairman

Subcommittee on International Trade,
Finance, and Security Economics

WP:rkt

Enclosure

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